

January 2000



English 30

Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

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January 2000
English 30
Part A: Written Response
Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments.

- **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

Value 15% of total examination mark

- **Literature Composition Assignment**

Value 35% of total examination mark

Time: This examination was developed to be completed in 2 ½ hours; however, you may take an additional ½ hour to complete the examination.

Budget your time carefully.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- You may use the following print or electronic references:
 - an English language and/or bilingual dictionary
 - a thesaurus
 - an authorized writing handbook
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and for your written work.
- Use blue or black ink for your written work.

Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors

- Format your work using an **easy-to-read** 12-point or larger font such as Times.
- Double-space your final copy.
- Staple your final printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in all work.
- Indicate in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached word-processed pages.

Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Feel free to make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.

Instructions

- Because the Reader's Response to Literature Assignment is thematically connected to the Literature Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.
- Read "The Necessity for Irony" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

The Necessity for Irony

On Sundays,
when the rain held off,
after lunch or later,
I would go with my twelve year old
daughter into town,
and put down the time
at junk sales, antique fairs.

There I would
lean over tables,
absorbed by
lace, wooden frames,
glass. My daughter stood
at the other end of the room,
her flame-coloured hair
obvious whenever—
which was not often—

I turned around.
I turned around.
She was gone.
Grown. No longer ready
to come with me, whenever
a dry Sunday
held out its promises
of small histories. Endings.

Continued

When I was young
I studied styles: their use
and origin. Which age
was known for which
ornament: and was always drawn
to a lyric speech, a civil tone.
But never thought
I would have the need,
as I do now, for a darker one:

Spirit of irony,
my caustic author
of the past, of memory—
and of its pain, which returns
hurts, stings—reproach me now,
remind me
that I was in those rooms,
with my child,
with my back turned to her,
searching—oh, irony!—
for beautiful things.

Eavan Boland

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment
(Suggested time: approximately 30 to 45 minutes)

In the poem "The Necessity for Irony," the speaker suggests that our perspective or outlook influences the way we live our lives.

What does the poem suggest to you about the way in which our perspectives influence us? Support your response with reference to specific detail from the poem.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on pages 6 and 8.

If you are using a word processor, staple your Reader's Response here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

There is additional space for Written Work on pages 7 and 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on page 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for Written Work on page 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1½ to 2 hours)

Much literature explores the way in which our perspectives or outlooks determine our approach to life and the quality of our lives.

Write an essay based on literature that you have studied in which the author examines the way in which an individual's perspectives shape his or her life. **What idea(s) does the author develop regarding the significance of an individual's perspective?** Support and develop your controlling idea with reference to specific detail from the literature that you choose to discuss.

Guidelines for Writing

- **Select** literature that is relevant to this assignment from the short stories, novels, plays, poetry, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must focus your discussion on literature *other than* the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea about the significance of an individual's perspective. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are developing and supporting your controlling idea in response to *this* assignment.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly, effectively, and coherently presented.

Literature Composition Assignment

Initial Planning

You may use this space for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title
of literature that
you have chosen

Your controlling idea
or thesis statement

There is additional space for Planning on even-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

*If you are using a word processor, staple your Literature Composition here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).*

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for Written Work on odd-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

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Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

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Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

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Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

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Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

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Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Credit

Eavan Boland. "The Necessity for Irony" from *The Lost Land* (Carcenet Press Limited, 1998). Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with CanCopy (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency).

Biographical Note

Eavan Boland was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1944. She now divides her time between Dublin and California. While in Dublin, she lives with her husband and their two daughters; at Stanford University in California, she is a professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program. She has published eight volumes of poetry.

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